



## USAID's Goals in Sierra Leone

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The people of the United States have a long history of contributing to humanitarian efforts throughout the world. Since 2002, when the 11-year civil war in Sierra Leone ended, USAID has been instrumental in working with the international donor community, the Government of Sierra Leone, non-governmental organizations, and Sierra Leonean citizens to help consolidate peace, security and stability in this post-civil war nation.

The United States has a number of national interests in Sierra Leone. Having provided over \$300 million annually in support of the U.N. Peacekeeping Forces, it is in the U.S. and Sierra Leone interest that stability be maintained to avert another crisis.

Sierra Leone's stability is also intertwined with that of its neighboring countries, where conflict continues to be a destabilizing factor in the sub-region. Therefore, maintaining peace and security in Sierra Leone will contribute to regional security.

Visit the USAID/Sierra Leone website:  
[www.usaid.gov/si/](http://www.usaid.gov/si/)



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# Sierra Leone: The Development Challenge



USAID is playing a critical role in assisting Sierra Leone's transformation from a war-ravaged country to one of Africa's newest democracies. USAID is only one of several U.S. Government agencies providing assistance.

## Foreign Assistance Framework

### USAID Mission objectives in Sierra Leone:

- 1) To Increase Sierra Leoneans' knowledge, expectations and demand for good governance.
- 2) To improve the responsiveness, transparency, political will, and capacity of targeted government institutions to better deliver services, income, and job opportunities.

**Major Program Areas:** Governing Justly and Democratically, Health, Economic Growth, and Natural Resource Management.

USAID focus on strengthening public and private social institutions in a manner that expands participation and incorporates principles of accountability, and efficiency at the grassroots level.



USAID in the World

## USAID/Sierra Leone Program Areas

### Governing Justly and Democratically

**Local Government:** The Strengthening Democratic Governance project focuses on local government councils and civil society organizations by teaching them advocacy skills, by encouraging open debate and by educating citizens on their rights and duties. The successful 2007 elections reflect this change: USAID promoted trust between communities and the councils, generated more income from local tax collection and started the decentralization process.

USAID continues to support the National Election Plan. Strong support was given for the Presidential and Parliamentary elections in 2007, and such assistance continues for to the 2008 local elections. USAID has emphasized women's participation in the election process, both as candidates and as voters. Our support helped elect 16 women to Parliament in 2007.

**Media:** USAID engages mass media to improve the way government, citizens, and civil society work and interact. Media programming continues to be cross-cutting to ensure that citizens have full access to information and are prepared to participate in the democratic process. USAID's assistance advances community radio stations and effective media networks.

### Health Assistance

Maternal and childcare is a major component of USAID's health initiative in Sierra Leone. In 2007 USAID trained over 2,400 health care providers in maternal and newborn health and nutrition care. The program helped treat children and expanded immunization coverage for women and children. The USAID initiative also supported consultations for pregnant women.

In addition, USAID/Sierra Leone, is providing prostheses, therapy and livelihood assistance to war victims. USAID support has led to greater community and district participation on these issues.



Woman gives Vitamin A to a child

### Economic Growth

The major economic growth project, **LINKS** (Promoting Linkages for Economic Livelihood Security and Development) consolidates unity and reconciliation, and improves communities by (re) building vital public infrastructure, stimulating economic activity and enabling socially marginalized young men and women to be gainfully employed through new or expanded agribusiness and other economic activities.



War-affected youths in the LINKS program process cassava.

**LEAD** (Livelihood Expansion and Asset Development) is a P.L. 480-financed project which focuses on building the human capacities of poor farmers, economically marginalized youth and (pregnant/lactating) women to undertake new or expanded livelihood activities. It empowers community-based groups to practice and promote principles of good governance. **LEAD** also supports the health assistance activities.

### Natural Resource Management

Many of Africa's conflicts are financed through illicit mining and trade of mineral wealth, particularly diamonds. USAID has worked to reinforce legal diamonds exports and ensure through transparency that government revenues are implemented for the public good. USAID worked with citizen groups and cooperatives to help them monitor mining activities in their communities. In addition, USAID encouraged greater government control of the diamond mining sector. This support has led to a rise in legally traded diamonds and reduced the effects of conflict diamonds as a destabilizing force in the region.



Women working in a gold mine